

V. REMARKS

In the final Office Action, claims 1-12 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as unpatentable over Loose et al. (U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2003/0087690) in view of Fey (Slot Machines: A Pictorial History of the First 100 Years). Claims 1-12 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as unpatentable over Okada (U.S. Patent No. 5,152,529) in view of Fey (Slot Machines: A Pictorial History of the First 100 Years). The rejections are respectfully traversed.

With regard to patentability of independent claims 1 and 7, it is respectfully submitted that claims 1 and 7 are allowed and not depends on whether the structure that "the game information predicting a winning symbol combination is displayed on an area including the symbol display area of a second display means before a specific game result is displayed on a first display means (device)" is disclosed in Fey.

In this regard, the Examiner states that since the number of coins to be paid out on the following play is displayed on a future pay window, the winning combination is predicted from a pay table (associating the number of coins and the winning combinations) if the number of coins is known. Thus, the Examiner asserts that displaying the number of coins to be paid on the following play on the future pay window of Fey just corresponds to the game information predicting the winning combination.

It is certain that Fey discloses the structure of displaying the number of coins or tokens to be paid on the following play on the future pay window or future pay display when a reel is stopped on a current play and a winning is prized. On the following play, coin allotment displayed on the future pay window or so on is paid.

However, in Fey, there is no disclosure about a condition for paying coin allotment (e. g. simultaneous appearance of same symbols or independence from a play result). Fey also fails to mention a bet. Further, in Fey, only the number of coins on the following play is displayed and thus the winning combination could not be known until the pay table displayed on a body of a gaming machine is referred to. That is, the winning combination could only be known indirectly. It is therefore complicated to know the winning combination.

On the other hand, the present invention is configured to inform a winning on a current play, not on the following play. This allows a player to know whether he has won the current play during the current play prior to payment of the following bet.

Further, the game information recited in claims 1 and 7 can directly predict a winning symbol combination without referring to a pay table displayed on any means other than the second display means (device).

Specifically, the "game information" in claims 1 and 7 of the present invention inherently

differs from the number of coins displayed on the future pay window disclosed in Fey.

In light of the above review, the claims have been amended to reflect the following points:

1. the game information is displayed on an area including symbol display area of the second display means before a specific game result is displayed after play start, and
2. the specific game result display on the first display means can transmittably be displayed by changing light transmittance rate of the symbol display so as to become high, and the game information is displayed on the symbol display area of the second display means by changing the light transmittance rate of the symbol display area so as to become low.

It is respectfully submitted that the above points are not disclosed nor suggested in any cited references. It is respectfully submitted that independent claims 1 and 7 (corresponding to new claim 13) are not anticipated or can be considered obvious by any cited references. Thus, allowance of claims 1 and 13 is respectfully requested.

Claims 2-6 depend from claim 1 and include all of the features of claim 1. Thus, it is respectfully submitted that the dependent claims are allowable at least for the reason claim 1 is allowable as well as for the features they recite.

Claims 14-20 depend from claim 13 and include all of the features of claim 13. Thus, it is respectfully submitted that the dependent claims are allowable at least for the reason claim 13 is allowable as well as for the features they recite.

Also, for reasons discussed above, independent claims 21 is also allowable over the applied art.

Withdrawal of the rejections is respectfully requested.

Further, Applicants assert that there are also reasons other than those set forth above why the pending claims are patentable. Applicants hereby reserve the right to submit those other reasons and to argue for the patentability of claims not explicitly addressed herein in future papers.

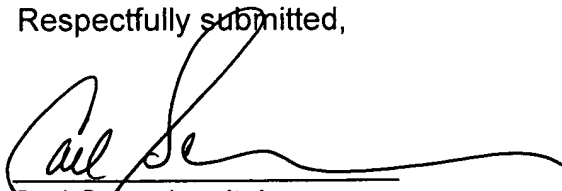
In view of the foregoing, reconsideration of the application and allowance of the pending claims are respectfully requested. Should the Examiner believe anything further is desirable in order to place the application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact Applicants' representative at the telephone number listed below.

Should additional fees be necessary in connection with the filing of this paper or if a Petition for Extension of Time is required for timely acceptance of the same, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge Deposit Account No. 18-0013 for any such fees and Applicant(s) hereby petition for such extension of time.

Respectfully submitted,

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Enclosure(s): Request for Continued Examination
Amendment Transmittal
Petition for Extension of Time (3 months)

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